



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Iran – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 7, 2004

BACKGROUND

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on December 26, 2003, at 05:27 local time, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck southeastern Iran's Kerman Province. The epicenter of the earthquake, with a depth of 10 km, was near the city of Bam, 180 km southeast of the provincial capital of Kerman and 975 km southeast of Tehran.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that 115,000 people live in Bam and the surrounding area, all of whom have been affected by the earthquake. According to UN OCHA, the Government of Iran (GOI) estimates that the earthquake has resulted in the deaths of 30,000 people and injured an additional 30,000 residents.
- According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), the GOI estimates that 85 percent of buildings have been destroyed in Bam and the surrounding area. UN OCHA reports that GOI estimates that 45,000 people are homeless, although this is expected to rise to 75,000 upon the return of those currently staying with family members or being hospitalized outside Bam.
- Since December 26, nearly 80 major aftershocks have been recorded, causing minor damage to existing structures.
- According to the USAID/DART, priority needs are water and sanitation, internally displaced persons, and shelter.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population Killed	30,000	UN OCHA / GOI
Total Population Injured	30,000	UN OCHA / GOI
Total Homeless	45,000 – 75,000	UN OCHA / GOI

Total USAID/DART Earthquake Assistance to Iran\$2,785,315
Total USG Earthquake Assistance to Iran.....\$4,797,600

CURRENT SITUATION

Coordination

- The GOI has organized a committee to plan for Bam's reconstruction. Composed of the Governor of Kerman, three Vice-Governors, and three Members of Parliament, the committee will have 30 days to devise a reconstruction plan.
- The USAID/DART reports that the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has done an impressive job of coordinating humanitarian efforts. IRCS has divided Bam into 12 sectors with humanitarian assistance responsibilities for each being provided by local IRCS branches. An estimated 1,700 IRCS relief workers are registering the affected population, issuing distribution cards, and conducting monthly ration distributions, including rice, sugar, cooking oil, and soap. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), more than 35,282 individuals in 7,500 households had been registered as of January 6. IRCS is mapping humanitarian needs to facilitate relocation of people into camps, and the USAID/DART is completing assessments to assist in this endeavor. The IRCS has joined with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) to begin a tracing program and registration of the missing.
- A U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has helped to coordinate relief efforts, and the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) has held Humanitarian Coordination Meetings to discuss sectoral assistance. UNDAC is scheduled to leave by January 8, after which the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) will coordinate activities.

Shelter

- According to UN OCHA, many displaced persons have relocated with family members, but other residents are sleeping outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures. According to the USAID/DART, as of January 5, three camps, out of a total of nine planned, were established in Bam to accommodate the displaced and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The 600 tent camps are equipped with donated blankets, sleeping pads, heaters, and kitchen sets.
- According to the USAID/DART, the IRCS is currently responsible for providing families a certificate to enter IDP camps and has indicated that they will prioritize IDP camp certificates for the most vulnerable. In a recent Mercy Corps survey, many people indicated that if services are provided, they would use the camp for night residence but continue commerce as usual during the day. According to UN OCHA, the first camp had received 38 families by January 5.
- After a series of assessments, the USAID/DART reported that while few habitable structures remain in Bam, many residents are using sections of heavily damaged houses and buildings and putting themselves in danger due to aftershocks.

- The GOI has begun construction of one of three semi-permanent camps. The Government of Kerman estimates that 15,000 semi-permanent tents, scheduled to be constructed by March 2004, will be needed while reconstruction is planned and completed. The GOI estimates that reconstruction of Bam will begin in four months.

Health

- According to the USAID/DART, the earthquake destroyed two hospitals in Bam, and local Iranian staff operates in tents in and around the remaining Imam Khomeini Hospital. The USAID/DART reports a need for medical and hygiene items.
- Injured medivaced from Bam during the first days following the earthquake are being released from Iranian hospitals and returned to Bam. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) field hospital is receiving these patients to continue their treatment. The IFRC hospital serves as the central referral hospital in Bam, and includes emergency services, internal pediatric and surgical departments, lab and X-ray facilities, and an obstetric care department.
- On January 6, the U.N. reported 36 cases of mental health-related disorders and one suicide attempt. Psychiatrists and psychologists located at the Social Welfare Organization are treating the patients.

Sanitation

- According to the USAID/DART, OSOCC views the shortage of toilets and washing facilities as the most critical public health concern in Bam. The GOI Ministry of Health (MOH) estimates that 10,000 toilets and 1,500 showers are needed.
- The USAID/DART reports that the MOH/Environmental Health Division has developed a blueprint for latrine construction. A number of NGOs are moving forward in getting emergency latrine systems installed for immediate use. Also, although the earthquake destroyed many homes, some latrines are still standing and may be quickly rehabilitated.

Children

- According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), post-traumatic stress syndrome remains a major problem, particularly in children. Local officials report 32,800 children were enrolled in Bam's schools, of whom a third are now estimated to have died. In total, 1,800 children have been orphaned in Bam, and another 5,000 have lost one parent. UNICEF is scheduled to establish 24 tents, each large enough for 30 children, where children can receive counseling and play.
- According to the USAID/DART, Iranian authorities are planning to reopen schools in Bam on January 10, depending on the condition of the school buildings and availability of teachers. UNICEF has transported 40 "schools in a box," to replace an estimated 23 destroyed, and an unidentified number of damaged, school buildings.
- According to the USAID/DART, the Islamic Social Organization has established a temporary orphanage on the grounds of a former high school. Due to damage to the temporary orphanage's housing facilities, the organization is housing, processing, and sending orphans to foster homes in Kerman and Tehran. The orphanage has processed 1,500 orphans to date.

Power, water, and logistics

- According to the USAID/DART, Bam's underground water supply system has been damaged. Only one of the two main water lines is functioning, and trucks must supply water to 50 percent of the city. The lack of water tankers has been identified as a major water problem in outlying areas, but the expected arrival of water bladders should ease the shortfall.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- The 81-member USAID/DART team arrived in country on December 30 via two C-17s and a C-130. The USAID members include a Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Operations Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Communications Officer, Information Officer, and Security Officer. Other components of the DART include the 11 member Fairfax County USAR Task Force (VA-TF1) and the 57 member International Medical/Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and 6 member Management Support Team (MST) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- From December 31 to Jan 5, the USAID/DART set up operations in Bam, conducted needs and structural assessments, and coordinated with the MOH, the U.N., and NGOs. From December 31 to January 4, the IMSuRT Field Hospital treated 727 patients, 30 percent of whom had earthquake-related injuries, including surgeries and post-trauma mental health cases. The IMSuRT field hospital closed on January 5, and new patients were referred to the IFRC field hospital.
- On January 6, the USAID/DART donated medical equipment and supplies to the ICRC.
- On January 6, the majority of the USAID/DART departed Bam. Four VA-TF1 members and four USAID representatives will remain in Bam, and the OFDA Acting Director will join them as the DART leader. The USAID/DART representatives will remain in Bam to continue assessments, programming, and coordinating with the IFRC, U.N., and NGOs. The USAID/DART will provide oversight on the disposition of commodities and equipment, as well as provide emergency first responder training, in conjunction with the IFRC and the U.N.
- USAID/OFDA has sent four airlifts of relief commodities, consisting of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, approximately 12,500 blankets, and 1026 winterized tents at a total cost of \$386,765.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 to the IFRC in support of their Preliminary Appeal.
- According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), seven C-130s have airlifted approximately 68 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, 2,000 blankets, and a 10K forklift to assist in offloading relief commodities in Bam.

ESTIMATED USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/DART ASSISTANCE			
USAID*	Logistics and commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$761,765
IFRC	Contribution to Preliminary Appeal for commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
USAR*	Urban Search and Rescue Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$645,700
FEMA*	Medical Assistance Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$720,000
Administrative		Earthquake-affected regions	\$57,850
TOTAL USAID/DART EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$2,785,315
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD*	Commodities and air transportation	Earthquake-affected regions	\$2,012,285
TOTAL DOD EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....			\$2,012,285
TOTAL USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN			\$4,797,600

* These figures represent estimated costs as of January 7, 2004.

OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE

- According to international media reports and UN OCHA, the following donors have pledged \$80.3 million in assistance, including monetary and non-food items, as of January 6: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- The IFRC has dispatched an assessment and coordination team to the disaster site and released a preliminary appeal for \$12.3 million in funding, commodities, or services to assist 200,000 beneficiaries for six months.
- From January 3 to 5, a joint U.N. mission assessed the sectoral needs for the Flash Appeal. The assessment team included the UNDP; the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the U.N. Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), WHO, and the World Food Program (WFP). The Flash Appeal will cover the following nine areas: food and logistics; water and sanitation; health and nutrition; protection of children and women; education, rehabilitation, and reconstruction; shelter; cultural heritage; and coordination, security, telecommunications, information, monitoring, and evaluation.
- On January 8, at a donor conference in Bam, the IFRC and the U.N. will launch a joint Flash Appeal, which will address emergency needs for the next three months. The U.N. Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and USAID/DART representatives will be in attendance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their earthquake response efforts in Iran can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov/iran, or by calling (703) 276-1914. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov/iran
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.